

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:
broadcasting a special delivery traffic indication message (DTIM) beacon; and
broadcasting a data frame that includes at least load balancing information.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the special DTIM beacon includes a field having a traffic indicator bit that is set.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the special DTIM beacon is configured in accordance with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 802.11.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the data frame further includes a test pattern.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the data frame is broadcast after a definitive time period has elapsed after the broadcasting of the special DTIM beacon.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the data frame is broadcast immediately after the broadcasting of the special DTIM beacon.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the broadcasting of both the special DTIM beacon and the data frame is performed by an access point.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the load balancing information is computed from information pertaining to characteristics of wireless units in communication with the access point.
9. The method of claim 4, wherein the test pattern is a static bit pattern.
10. A method comprising:
providing an access point; and

3 broadcasting a modified beacon from the access point to a plurality of wireless
4 units, the modified beacon comprises (i) a plurality of information elements including
5 at least one of an access point name, an access point internet protocol information and a
6 load balancing information, and (ii) a first frame check sequence associated with the
7 plurality of information elements.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the modified beacon further comprises
2 (iii) a test pattern, and (iv) a second frame check sequence for the modified beacon.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein the modified beacon is a delivery
2 traffic indication message (DTIM) beacon.

1 13. The method of claim 10, wherein the modified beacon is a traffic
2 indication message (TIM) beacon.

1 14. The method of claim 10, wherein the modified beacon is each traffic
2 indication map (TIM) beacon and each delivery traffic indication message (DTIM)
3 beacon.

1 15. A method comprising:
2 modifying a beacon configured in accordance with an Institute of Electrical and
3 Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 802.11 to produce a modified beacon, the modified
4 beacon comprises a plurality of additional information elements including at least one
5 of an access point name, an access point internet protocol information and a load
6 balancing information; and
7 broadcasting the modified beacon.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the modified beacon further comprises
2 a first frame check sequence associated with the plurality of additional information
3 elements.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the modified beacon further comprises
2 a test pattern and a second frame check sequence for the modified beacon.

